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Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on August 15, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, August 15, 2008

Remarks in Beijing, China

August 9, 2008

Situation in Georgia

I'm deeply concerned about the situation in Georgia. The United States takes this matter very seriously.

The attacks are occurring in regions of Georgia far from the zone of conflict in South Ossetia. They mark a dangerous escalation in the crisis. The violence is endangering regional peace. Civilian lives have been lost, and others are endangered.

This situation can be resolved peacefully. We've been in contact with leaders in both Georgia and Russia at all levels of government. Georgia is a sovereign nation, and its territorial integrity must be respected. We have urged an immediate halt to the violence and a standdown by all troops. We call for an end to the Russian bombings and a return by the parties to the status quo of August the 6th.

The United States is working with our European partners to launch international mediation and with the parties to restart their dialog. Russia needs to support these efforts so that peace can be restored as quickly as possible.

Attack on American Tourists

Laura and I were also saddened by the attack on an American family and their Chinese tour guide today in Beijing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. And the United States Government has offered to provide any assistance the family needs.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Todd and Barbara Bachman, who were attacked while touring the Drum Tower in Beijing.

The President's Radio Address

August 9, 2008

Good morning. I'm speaking to you from Beijing, where I've come to support American athletes participating in the Olympic games. This is a moment of pride for our Olympians and the great Nation they represent, and Laura and I are honored to share it with them.

In addition to attending the Olympics, my schedule includes meeting with China's President, dedicating a new U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and worshiping at a local church. During my time here, I'm expressing America's deep concerns about freedom and human rights in China. This trip has reaffirmed my belief that men and women who aspire to speak their conscience and worship their God are no threat to the future of China; they are the people who will make China a great nation in the 21st century.

One of the most striking parts of this trip is seeing how much China has changed. I first visited the country more than three decades ago, when my dad was America's representative in Beijing. Poverty was rampant, and the streets swarmed with bicycles. Today, China is sprinting into the modern era. Beijing is covered in skyscrapers and filled with cars, and the people of China have more connections to the world than ever before.

These changes present the Chinese people, the American people, and the world with tremendous opportunities. So over the past 8 years, America has sought to put our relationship with China on a more solid and principled footing. We've advanced both our nations' interests by expanding free and fair trade and encouraging the rise of a Chinese middle class, which can be an enormous market for American exports. We have also cooperated on other shared challenges, from fighting pandemic disease to opposing North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

At the same time, America has spoken candidly and consistently about our concerns over the Chinese Government's behavior. We have made it clear that trusting their people with greater freedom is necessary for China to reach its full potential. We have emphasized that being a global economic leader carries with it the duty to act responsibly on matters from energy to the environment to development and Africa.

Only China can decide what course it will follow, but I'm optimistic about the prospects. Young people who grow up with freedom in one area of their lives will ultimately demand freedom in other areas. The China of the future will reflect its own culture and traditions, but it will also reflect the universal aspirations of mankind. And there's no deeper human desire than liberty.

America's relationship with China is one element of our broader strategy for the region. When I took office, I brought a clear conviction that America is a Pacific nation, and our engagement with Asia should be stronger than ever before. We've acted on that conviction by pursuing four broad objectives.

We bolstered all five of our treaty alliances in the Asia Pacific region: Japan, Australia, the Philippines, and two countries I visited this week, South Korea and Thailand. We have strengthened our relationships with other free societies in Asia, including India, the world's largest democracy, and Indonesia, a democratic nation that is home to more Muslims than any other nation on Earth. We have seized opportunities for prosperity by negotiating new free trade agreements, including an historic agreement with South Korea, an agreement which our United States Congress must pass. And we helped bring together nations throughout the Asia Pacific to fight terrorism, seek an end to tyranny in Burma, respond to natural disasters, and address other challenges to our people and our prosperity.

My trips to Asia as President have brought many uplifting moments. One of the most moving came this week in Seoul, when I spoke to American troops at the Yongsan Garrison. These men and women are carrying the burdens of military life far from home. Yet in their faces you can see a quiet pride that comes from having an important job and doing it right. These brave Americans are preserving peace, and they're sending a broader message about our approach toward Asia. Now and always, the United States will keep our word to our friends. We will stand confidently for liberty. And we will advance our Nation's interests and ideals by staying engaged in this pivotal part of the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:20 p.m. on August 7 at Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., e.d.t., on August 9. In his address, the President referred to President Hu Jintao of China. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. Due to the 12-hour time difference, the radio address was broadcast after the President's remarks in Beijing. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Visit to the Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church in Beijing

August 10, 2008

You know, I've just—Laura and I just had the great joy and privilege of worshiping here in Beijing, China. You know, it just goes to show that God is universal, and God is love, and no state, man, or woman should fear the influence of loving religion.

And I want to thank the pastor for his hospitality. And I want to thank this beautiful choir for singing "Amazing Grace" and "Edelweiss." It was a touching moment. It's been a joy to worship here. Again, I want to thank you, sir, and God bless you. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Pastor Li Jian'an, senior pastor, Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Beijing

August 10, 2008

President Hu. I'm very happy to meet you again, President Bush. And I would like to welcome you and your family members to Beijing for the opening ceremony of the Olympic games and also to watch the games. This is already your fourth visit to China, and this has certainly made you a American President that visited China more than any other U.S. President while in office. This is a good test to the importance you've placed on U.S. relations with China.

I know that the day before yesterday, you attended the inauguration of the U.S. Embassy in China, and the new Chinese Embassy in the United States was inaugurated at the end of July. And all this must further growth of China-U.S. relationship.

Now the various events of the Beijing Olympic games are underway smoothly. And I know you just came here from swimming center, and I would like to offer you my sincere congratulations on the excellent performance of Mr. Phelps.

President Bush. Thank you. [*Laughter*]

President Hu. We are confident that he will score even better achievements in the coming games.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Hu. I would also like to mention the unfortunate happening yesterday. Yesterday two American tourists were attacked and one was killed; the another was injured. And I would like to take the opportunity—please accept my profound sympathy to you, Mr. President, and the family members of the victims. The Chinese side takes this unfortunate incident very seriously. Yesterday I already instructed the competent official in charge of the Chinese Foreign Ministry to go to the hospital to see the injured. We take this case very seriously, and we have already instructed the competent authorities to carry out a very serious investigation and handle the case in accordance with law. We'll keep in touch with the U.S. side on the latest developments.

We're now willing to listen to your views, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. First, Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. I am so honored that you would invite my wife, my daughter, my father, my brother, my sister, and sister-in-law to lunch. And I congratulate you on the opening ceremonies. I'm not sure what it looked like on TV, but I can tell you what it looked in person; and it was spectacular.

And we are enjoying the games and, matter of fact, looking forward to tonight's big game, U.S. men's versus China men's basketball. [*Laughter*] Somebody asked me if we were going to make a bet on the game. I said, I don't think so.

I do want to thank you very much for how you handled—I do want to thank you very much, Mr. President, for how you handled the situation with the Bachman family. And I thank you for your expressions of sympathy. And the Ambassador informs me that your Government has been very attentive and very sympathetic, and I appreciate that a lot.

Today—I mean, every time I come to China, I have memorable experiences. I enjoy our conversations that we have. As you know, our relationship is constructive, and it's important. And it's also very candid, and I thank you for that.

And once again, I had a very uplifting experience by going to a church, and I want to thank you for arranging that as well. It was a spirit-filled, good feeling. And as you know, I feel very strongly about religion, and I am so appreciative of the chance to go to church here in your society.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. in Han Yuan Dian Hall at the Zhongnanhai. In his remarks, he referred to Todd and Barbara Bachman, who were attacked on August 9 while touring the Drum Tower in Beijing; Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi of China; and U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. He also referred to his daughter Barbara P. Bush; his brother Marvin P. Bush and his sister-in-law Margaret Bush; and his sister, Dorothy Bush Koch. President Hu referred to Michael Phelps, swimmer, U.S. Olympic team. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Vice President Xi Jinping of China in Beijing

August 10, 2008

Vice President Xi. I very much welcome you, Mr. President, and your family members to Beijing for the opening ceremony and for the different events and for this visit to Beijing. To my knowledge—that you have a quite rich and full and interesting program here in Beijing, and I hope you like the program.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Vice President Xi. I'm very familiar with you, Mr. President, because you are always in the limelight of international media. [*Laughter*] And I'm very happy to have this opportunity to meet you and get acquainted with you.

President Bush. Thank you.

Vice President Xi. That's why the fact that you've come to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic games shows your support for the Chinese efforts to host this Olympiad, and it also shows your understanding and respect for the Chinese people to host these games.

The U.S. delegation is a very powerful and strong delegation, and you still have a overwhelming and very obvious edge in athletic sports. And I would like to wish American athletes every success and you good performance at the Beijing Olympic games.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Vice President Xi. Just now you had a friendly meeting with President Hu Jintao, and I know later on you are going to have a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao. I'm very happy to have this opportunity to learn about your views and opinions.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Well, thank you very much for your hospitality. We've just had a fabulous lunch, and I'm looking forward to this meeting as well.

I thank you for the warm hospitality. The opening day celebration was unbelievable. And I appreciate the beautiful venues, and I'm looking forward to seeing some of our teams compete.

So, we thank you very much, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in Building 202 at the Zhongnanhai. Vice President Xi referred to President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao of China. Vice President Xi spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Premier Wen Jiabao of China in Beijing

August 10, 2008

Premier Wen. Mr. President, welcome to Beijing. I also welcome your family members and other friends from the United States to the Beijing Olympic games.

I already learned that yesterday you went to see the American athletes in Beijing and you also watched a match played by the U.S. women's basketball team.

President Bush. Right.

Premier Wen. You also spent some time with the beach volleyball players. [*Laughter*]

I think this evening the match between the Chinese men's basketball team and the American men's basketball team will captivate the attention of people from all over the world.

President Bush. That's right.

Premier Wen. I'm very happy that you're going to watch the match.

President Bush. Yes, sir. I'm going with the Foreign Minister. [*Laughter*] He's going—he told me he's going to be yelling at the top of his lungs. [*Laughter*]

Thank you for your hospitality. It's been a wonderful experience being here. I didn't see if you were at the opening ceremonies.

Premier Wen. Yes, I was there.

President Bush. Well, it was fantastic—really well done. But thank you.

Premier Wen. Yes, the opening ceremony is spectacular.

President Bush. Unbelievable.

Premier Wen. When the U.S. team marched into the stadium, I saw that you put back your coat and your suit and then you stood up and cheered for your team.

President Bush. Yes, sir. I was proud to see them. But I bet you did the same thing when the Chinese team came. [*Laughter*]

Premier Wen. Yes, yes. I did the same.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in Ziguangge Hall at the Zhongnanhai. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi of China. Premier Wen spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Interview With Bob Costas of NBC Sports in Beijing

August 11, 2008

2008 Beijing Olympics

Mr. Costas. All right, Al, we thank you. In a few minutes we'll have more of the women's team qualifying from Sunday afternoon here in Beijing. But now, live, we're joined by President George W. Bush, who has been at these games since the opening ceremony. You saw the opening ceremony. You've seen Michael Phelps and company at the pool. You went to beach volleyball, the USA's win over China in basketball last night. What are your impressions so far?

The President. First of all, I think the Chinese are being great hosts. The venues are fantastic. And our team's fired up, and so am I. I'm excited to be here. It's such a thrill to watch our men and women compete.

U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team

Mr. Costas. You met with the ballplayers before the basketball game last night.

The President. I did. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Costas. What was their response to you?

The President. Their response was—well, first of all, obviously these are great stars. And their response was, "Thanks for coming; we are really, really honored to represent America." And I was impressed by them. And of course, they go out and put on a great performance.

China-U.S. Relations

Mr. Costas. And winning 101 to 70. All right, our time here is limited. We'll get to as much as we can.

The President. Okay.

Mr. Costas. The opening ceremonies were glorious. There's much to admire about China's people, China's culture, and its present accomplishments. But this remains an authoritarian state——

The President. That's true.

Mr. Costas. ——with an abysmal human rights record. In the long run, is China's rise irreconcilable with America's interests?

The President. No. In the long run, America better remain engaged with China and understand that we can have a cooperative and constructive, yet candid, relationship. It's really important for future Presidents to understand the relationship between China and the region, and it's important to make sure that America is engaged with China, even though we may have some disagreements.

China-U.S. Relations/U.S. Foreign Policy

Mr. Costas. You met with President Hu Jintao, not just at the opening ceremony——

The President. Right.

Mr. Costas. ——but privately since then. Did you press him on the full array of American concerns: human rights; press freedom; Tibet; China's support of rogue regimes like Sudan and Myanmar?

The President. Yes—and North Korea and Iran.

Mr. Costas. It was all on the table?

The President. Oh, absolutely, every time—every time. And you got to understand something, Bob, I don't need the Olympics to advance America's agenda. I've met with Hu Jintao a lot since I have been the President. And, yes, I had a full range—hey, listen, we agree with them on a lot of things, and we disagree with them on things. And that's the way the relationship is going to be. It needs to be, as I mentioned, constructive and cooperative.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Mr. Costas. This past week you restated America's fundamental differences with China.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. But given China's growing strength and America's own problems, realistically how much leverage and influence does the U.S. have here?

The President. First of all, I don't see America having problems. I see America as a nation that is a world leader, that has got

great values. And leverage is—I don't think you should look at the relationship as one of leverage. I think you ought to look at the relationship of one of constructive engagement where you can find common areas, like North Korea and Iran, but also be in a position where they respect you enough to listen to your views on religious freedom and political liberty.

2008 Beijing Olympics/China

Mr. Costas. If these Olympics are as successful as they are shaping up to be, most people believe this only further legitimizes the ruling party in the minds on most Chinese——

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. ——citizens. And even absent true liberty as we understand it, the lives of hundreds of millions of Chinese people are much better than they once were. Therefore, what's the party's incentive to reform?

The President. Well, first of all, if you're a religious person, you understand that once religion takes hold in a society, it can't be stopped. And secondly, I think it—the Olympics are going to serve as a chance for people to come and see China the way it is and let the Chinese see the world and interface and have the opportunity to converse with people from around the world. And this is a very positive development, in my view, for peace.

And who knows what—how China is going to progress? They've been through some very difficult political times—the Cultural Revolution, where the leadership actually created violent anarchy as the society turned on itself. All I can tell you is, is that it's important for the United States to be active in this part of the world with all countries and to stay engaged with China.

Situation in Georgia

Mr. Costas. Moving away from China for just a second, during the opening ceremony, we saw you conferring with Vladimir Putin.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. We now know you were talking about the conflict that had erupted that day——

The President. That's true.

Mr. Costas. ——between Russia and Georgia. Now, Georgia is a former Soviet republic that is sympathetic to the West——

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. ——and that is attempting to embody many Western values. But just as you need China, you need Russia strategically around the globe.

The Presient. Yes.

Mr. Costas. You got to walk a fine line. What did you say to Putin?

The President. I said this violence is unacceptable. I not only said it to Vladimir Putin, I said it to the President of the country, Dmitry Medvedev. And my administration has been engaged with both sides in this, trying to get a cease-fire, and saying that the status quo ante of—for all troops should be August 6th. And, look, I expressed my grave concern about the disproportionate response of Russia and that we strongly condemn bombing outside of South Ossetia.

It was just interesting to me that here we are trying to promote peace and harmony, and we're witnessing a conflict take place.

Mr. Costas. Right, no Olympic truce in this case.

The President. There wasn't. And I was very firm with Vladimir Putin—and he and I have got a good relationship—just like I was firm with the Russian President. And hopefully, this will get resolved peacefully. There needs to be a international mediation there for the South Ossetia issue.

Darfur

Mr. Costas. A couple more quick things.

The President. Sure.

Mr. Costas. China is a nation that warmly received Umar al-Bashir of Sudan, who has since been indicted by the International Court on charges of genocide.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. Then this past week, they revoke the visa of Joey Cheek, an exemplary Olympian who had planned to come here not to directly protest China's Government, but to call attention to the humanitarian——

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. ——crisis in Darfur.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. What's your reaction?

The President. My reaction is, I'm sorry Joey Cheek didn't come; he's a good man. Joey Cheek has just got to know that I took the Sudanese message for him. My attitude is, is if you got relations with Mr. Bashir, think about helping us solve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. That was my message to the Chinese Government.

China-U.S. Relations/Freedom Agenda

Mr. Costas. As you attempt to press these points with them, do you find Hu Jintao not just warm toward you personally, but is he receptive? Do you sense any movement?

The President. It's hard to tell. I mean, it's—all I can tell you is, is that it is best to be in the position where a leader will listen to you. Hey, I went to church here, and I'm sure the cynics say, "Well, you know, it was just a state-sponsored church." On the other hand—and that's true. On the other hand, it gave me a chance to say to the Chinese people, religion won't hurt you; you ought to welcome religious people. And it gave me a chance to say to the Government, why don't you register the underground churches and give them a chance to flourish? And he listened politely. And I can't read his mind, but I do know that every time I met with him, I pressed the point.

President's Visit to China

Mr. Costas. Your father has longstanding connections to China. He was an envoy here even before we established an official ambassador's position, during the 1970s, and he is here with you on this trip. So there's a connection, a family connection.

The President. Absolutely. Yes, there's a great connection. You know, I can remember riding my bike around Beijing in 1975, and it is——

Mr. Costas. Only bikes then, just about.

The President. ——unbelievable how far this has changed. I mean, it is—and he feels the same way. And we were honored yesterday when the President, Hu Jintao, invited my dad and me and Laura and my sister and my daughter, my brother, for dinner. It was a—lunch. It was just a great gesture of kindness.

Bob, it's very important for the American people to know that coming here gave me a chance, obviously, to root for our team, and you've captured that, but it's also—coming here is a sign of respect for the Chinese people. And this is a big, important nation. We'll have our differences; we'll have our agreements. But in order to find common ground and to move the world toward peace, it is important for this country to show respect for the people of the country.

Major League Baseball

Mr. Costas. Briefly, one more sports question.

The President. Sure.

Mr. Costas. You have been outspoken—your past connections to baseball—you used a State of the Union speech to do it, to talk about performance-enhancing drugs in sports. Marion Jones recently petitioned you for clemency.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Costas. She's serving time because of involvement in the BALCO case—one-time Olympic hero; we know many Olympians, and in your favorite sport and mine, baseball, big names—Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens. What's your feeling about this? And how much do you, as an American, trust the integrity of the sports you watch?

The President. Yes, well, you know, let's just talk about baseball. Obviously, one of the great things about baseball is we can compare the records of the players of the fifties to the sixties and the seventies and, obviously, the 1990s. And it is very important for there to be a—for the sport to be clean so that the great continuity and the history of baseball is real. And secondly, we don't want adults sending mixed messages to children that it's okay to shoot up drugs in order to become a star, because it's not okay.

2008 Beijing Olympics

Mr. Costas. You going to go to a few more events before you leave?

The President. I'm going to swimming here—if you'd ever let me off this set. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Costas. All right. You are dismissed.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Costas. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The interview began at 8:55 a.m. at the International Broadcasting Center. In his remarks,

the President referred to President Hu Jintao of China; President Dmitry A. Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia; former U.S. Olympic athlete Joey Cheek; and President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan. He also referred to his sister, Dorothy Bush Koch; his daughter Barbara P. Bush; and his brother Marvin P. Bush. Bob Costas referred to Alan "Al" Michaels, reporter, NBC Sports; former U.S. Olympic athlete Marion Jones-Thompson; and former Major League Baseball players Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 11, 2008

I just met with my national security team to discuss the situation in Georgia.

I am deeply concerned by reports that Russian troops have moved beyond the zone of conflict, attacked the Georgian town of Gori, and are threatening Georgia's capital of Tbilisi. There's evidence that Russian forces may soon begin bombing the civilian airport in the capital city.

If these reports are accurate, these Russian actions would represent a dramatic and brutal escalation of the conflict in Georgia. And these actions would be inconsistent with assurances we have received from Russia that its objectives were limited to restoring the status quo in South Ossetia that existed before fighting began on August the 6th.

It now appears that an effort may be underway to depose Russia's [Georgia's] * duly elected Government. Russia has invaded a sovereign neighboring state and threatens a democratic government elected by its people. Such an action is unacceptable in the 21st century.

The Georgian Government has accepted the elements of a peace agreement that the Russian Government previously said it would be willing to accept: an immediate cease-fire; the withdrawal of forces from the zone of conflict; a return to the military status quo as of August 6th; and a commitment to refrain from using force. There are representatives of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe currently in Moscow seeking Russia's agreement to this peace plan.

Russia's Government must respect Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Russian Government must reverse the course it appears to be on and accept this peace agreement as a first step toward resolving this conflict.

Russia's actions this week have raised serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. These actions have substantially damaged Russia's standing in the world, and these actions jeopardize Russians' relations—Russia's relations with the United States and Europe. It is time for Russia to be true to its word and to act to end this crisis.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:21 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks to the Coalition for Affordable American Energy

August 12, 2008

I want to thank members of the Coalition for Affordable American Energy for joining me today. We just had a very interesting and informative discussion. I heard from businesses, large and small. They—these folks are representing a lot of workers, people who are really concerned about the energy situation here in America, a lot of people wondering why their Government is not doing something about the supply of crude oil.

One of the things that came out in this discussion was, there's a lot of folks in our country who understand we could be doing something about the high price of gasoline, and we're not. Obviously, we need to be wise about conservation, but we've got to be wise about increasing the supply of oil here in America. If you're concerned about the price of gasoline, one way to affect that price of gasoline is to increase oil supplies.

And one of these things these workers know that I fully understand as well, I'd rather our consumers be buying gasoline made from oil here in America than gasoline from oil being made overseas. We want our dollars, to the extent possible, to be here at home, staying here at home.

* White House correction.

And so, we discussed a variety of strategies about how to affect the supply of oil, and one way that we can affect the supply of oil is to increase access to offshore exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Congress has restricted access to key parts of the Outer Continental Shelf since the early 1980s. Experts believe that these restricted areas could eventually produce nearly 10 years worth of America's current oil production. People have analyzed what's possible there, and they believe that it's—we can find a lot of oil, American-produced oil, oil that will mean our dollars are staying here and not going overseas. Advances in technology have made it possible to conduct oil exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf that is out of sight, that protects coral reefs, and protects against oil spills.

Last month, I acted and I lifted an executive branch restriction on offshore oil exploration. And then I called on Congress to join me and to lift the legislative ban—to end the legislative ban. Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership in Congress decided to go on a 5-week vacation, a recess, rather than act on behalf of the American consumer, the American small-business owner.

Members have now had an opportunity to hear from their constituents, and if they listen carefully, I think they'll hear what I heard today, and that is a lot of Americans from all walks of life wonder why we can't come together and get legislation necessary to end the ban on offshore drilling. And so, today I join House Republicans in urging the Speaker of the House to schedule a vote on offshore oil exploration as soon as possible.

Now, the way ahead is this: The moratorium on offshore drilling is included in the provisions of the Interior appropriations bill. When Congress returns, they should immediately bring this bill to the House floor and schedule an up-or-down vote on whether to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling. Our goal should be to enact a law that reflects the will of the overwhelming majority of Americans who want to open up oil resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.

And so, the Democratic leadership should bring up a clean bill, give the Members a chance to vote up or down on whether or not we should proceed with offshore drilling, and not insert any legislative poison pills. Those would be provisions that they know will never be enacted and are added only for the purpose of killing the effort to open up the off—the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling.

Congress can do some more. Once they solve this problem, they can allow us to drill in northern Alaska, which we can do in environmentally friendly ways. They should allow us to tap into the extraordinary potential of oil shale. And we need to expand our refining capacity here in America. These are all steps that the Congress can take to show the American people that we can move forward in a positive way to affect the price of gasoline. And there's a lot of Members of Congress who want a up-or-down vote. And the Democratic leadership has got to listen to the people on this issue.

Now, this is part of a comprehensive strategy. Everybody in this room understands that expanding oil and gas production is a part of a comprehensive strategy. Obviously, we need to expand conservation measures. We need to develop alternative energy technologies such as advanced batteries, plug-in hybrids, hydrogen fuel cells. We need to expand clean, safe, nuclear power, clean coal technology, solar, and wind power. There's not a single answer to our energy problems. But a part of solving the dilemma that our consumers are facing, that the hard-working Americans face, and that is high price of gasoline, we need to get after exploration here in America. And we can do it in a way that protects the environment.

So, when Congress comes back, they need to act. And they don't need to gimmick up the legislation; they need to allow there to be an up-or-down vote, and let the Members express the will of their constituents.

I appreciate the—your work on this issue. I appreciate you represent a lot of hard-working people, people who simply want to put food on the table and be able to make it to work; people who are concerned about the price of gasoline; people who have told you to tell me that they want to see more oil drilled, more exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; people who told you to tell me they want to see us drilling in Alaska; people

who told you to tell me they want a commonsense energy policy right here in Washington, DC. And I agree with them.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for our conversation. Appreciate it. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:57 p.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 13, 2008

Good morning. I've just met with my national security team to discuss the crisis in Georgia. I've spoken with President Saakashvili of Georgia and President Sarkozy of France this morning. The United States strongly supports France's efforts, as President of the European Union, to broker an agreement that will end this conflict.

The United States of America stands with the democratically elected Government of Georgia. We insist that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected.

Russia has stated that changing the Government of Georgia is not its goal. The United States and the world expect Russia to honor that commitment. Russia has also stated that it has halted military operations and agreed to a provisional cease-fire. Unfortunately, we're receiving reports of Russian actions that are inconsistent with these statements. We're concerned about reports that Russian units have taken up positions on the east side of the city of Gori, which allows them to block the east-west highway, divide the country, and threaten the capital of Tbilisi.

We're concerned about reports that Russian forces have entered and taken positions in the port city of Poti, that Russian armored vehicles are blocking access to that port, and that Russia is blowing up Georgian vessels. We're concerned about reports that Georgian citizens of all ethnic origins are not being protected. All forces, including Russian forces, have an obligation to protect innocent civilians from attack.

With these concerns in mind, I have directed a series of steps to demonstrate our solidarity with the Georgian people and bring about a peaceful resolution to this conflict. I'm sending Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to France, where she will confer with President Sarkozy. She will then travel to Tbilisi, where she will personally convey America's unwavering support for Georgia's democratic Government. On this trip, she will continue our efforts to rally the free world in the defense of a free Georgia.

I've also directed Secretary of Defense Bob Gates to begin a humanitarian mission to the people of Georgia, headed by the United States military. This mission will be vigorous and ongoing. A U.S. C–17 aircraft with humanitarian supplies is on its way. And in the days ahead, we will use U.S. aircraft as well as naval forces to deliver humanitarian and medical supplies.

We expect Russia to honor its commitment to let in all forms of humanitarian assistance. We expect Russia to ensure that all lines of communication and transport, including seaports, airports, roads, and airspace, remain open for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and for civilian transit. We expect Russia to meet its commitment to cease all military activities in Georgia. And we expect all Russian forces that entered Georgia in recent days to withdraw from that country.

As I have made clear, Russia's ongoing action raise serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. In recent years, Russia has sought to integrate into the diplomatic, political, economic, and security structures of the 21st century. The United States has supported those efforts. Now Russia is putting its aspirations at risk by taking actions in Georgia that are inconsistent with the principles of those institutions. To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe, and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must keep its word and act to end this crisis.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Briefings at the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia

August 14, 2008

I want to thank the Director, Mike Hayden, and D.O. Steve Kappes for hosting me out here at the CIA. I get a chance to thank a lot of the folks who work out here for their service to the country.

It's really important for the people who work here to understand the significant—the significance of the contributions they're making to secure the homeland. The people here work long and hard hours. And they're smart, capable, and they deserve the Nation's thanks.

We also had a couple of briefings, one on the war on terror and the other on the situation in Georgia. Got a lot of folks, smart folks analyzing the situation on the ground, and of course, briefing us on different possibilities that could develop in the area and the region.

I sent Condi Rice, Secretary of State Rice, over there. She'll be coming back to brief me Saturday. I'm looking forward to hearing firsthand what she has seen, what she has heard. And my call, of course, is for the territorial integrity of Georgia to be respected and for the cease-fire agreement to be honored.

And we will be working this issue throughout the coming weeks, and people out here at the Agency have been incredibly helpful. And I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. Thank you, Michael. Appreciate you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen R. Kappes, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 15, 2008

Good morning. I've just received an update from my national security team on the situation in Georgia. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is in Tbilisi. She's conferring with President Saakashvili and expressing America's wholehearted support for Georgia's democracy.

She will be traveling to Crawford, where I will meet her, and she will bring me up to date on what she has seen and what she heard in Georgia as well as in Paris—I mean, in France; she did not go to Paris. Secretary of Defense Gates will keep me briefed on the humanitarian assistance to the people of Georgia. We're working closely with our partners in Europe and other members of the G–7 to bring a resolution to this crisis.

The United States and our allies stand with the people of Georgia and their democratically elected Government. Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. Moscow must honor its commitment to withdraw its invading forces from all Georgian territory.

Some Americans listening today may wonder why events taking place in a small country halfway around the world matter to the United States. In the years since it's gained independence after the Soviet Union's collapse, Georgia's become a courageous democracy. Its people are making the tough choices that are required of free societies. Since the Rose Revolution in 2003, the Georgian people have held free elections, opened up their economy, and built the foundations of a successful democracy.

Georgia has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq to help others achieve the liberty that they struggled so hard to attain. To further strengthen their democracy, Georgia has sought to join the free institutions of the West. The people of Georgia have cast their lot with the free world, and we will not cast them aside.

Georgia's emergence as a young democracy has been part of an inspiring and hopeful new chapter in Europe's history. Europe has moved beyond the world wars that killed millions of people and the cold war that divided its citizens between two superpowers. Every administration since the end of the cold war has worked with European partners to extend the reach of liberty and prosperity. And now, for the first time in memory, Europe is becoming a continent that is whole, free, and at peace.

Unfortunately, Russia has tended to view the expansion of freedom and democracy as a threat to its interests. The opposite is true. Free and prosperous societies on Russia's

borders will advance Russia's interests by serving as sources of stability and economic opportunity.

We hope Russia's leaders will recognize that a future of cooperation and peace will benefit all parties. The cold war is over. The days of satellite states and spheres of influence are behind us. A contentious relationship with Russia is not in America's interest, and a contentious relationship with America is not in Russia's interest.

With its actions in recent days, Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world. Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century. Only Russia can decide whether it will now put itself back on the path of responsible nations or continue to pursue a policy that promises only confrontation and isolation. To begin to repair its relations with the United States and Europe and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must respect the freedom of its neighbors.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:13 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Continuation of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

August 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Continuation of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2291–4), I hereby certify, with respect to Colombia, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary because of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register* and to notify the Congress of this determination.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 9

In the morning, at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, the President had an intelligence briefing. He was then briefed by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Chaoyang Park Olympic Beach Volleyball Venue, where he attended a U.S. men's and women's Olympic beach volleyball teams practice.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Fengtai Olympic Softball Field, where he attended a U.S. Olympic softball team practice.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Westin hotel. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they attended a reception with chief executive officer sponsors of the 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. They then returned to the Westin hotel.

In the evening, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia and President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss the situation in Georgia. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center—Basketball Gymnasium, where they attended the U.S. women's Olympic basketball game against the Czech Republic. Later, they returned to the Westin hotel.

August 10

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church. Later, they traveled to the National Aquatics Center, where they attended various men's and women's Olympic swimming events.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Zhongnanhai compound. They then participated in a social lunch with President Hu Jintao of China and his wife, Liu Yongqing. Later, they returned to the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council, to discuss the situation in Georgia.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they had dinner. Later, they traveled to the Wukeson Culture and Sports Center—Basketball Gymnasium, where they attended the U.S. men's Olympic basketball game against China. They then returned to the Westin hotel.

August 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to the International Broadcasting Center. Later, he traveled to the National Aquatics Center, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

Later in the morning, the President met with members of the U.S. Olympic swim team. He and Mrs. Bush then attended various men's and women's Olympic swimming events. Later, they returned to the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center—Baseball Stadium, where they attended a practice game between the U.S. and Chinese Olympic baseball teams. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, crossing the international dateline. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom, President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania, and President Lech Kaczynski of Poland to discuss the situation in Georgia.

Later in the afternoon, in the Situation Room, the President met with the National Security Council to discuss the situation in Georgia.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss the situation in Georgia.

The President declared a major disaster in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on July 24.

August 12

In the morning, the President was updated on the situation in Georgia by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley. He then had a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss the situation in Georgia.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences: Elizabeth Ann Bryan; Robert C. Granger; Caroline M. Hoxby; Douglas J. Besharov; Lynn S. Fuchs; Paul E. Peterson; John L. Winn; and Patrick J. Wolf.

The President announced his intention to appoint Elsa A. Murano as a member of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation: Jean N. Case (and upon

appointment to redesignate her Chair); Raymond G. Chambers; Bo Derek; Evern Cooper Epps; Janine L. Gauntt; Kasey K. Kahne; Mary Beth King; Mary J. Myers; Michelle Nunn; Kelly Perdew; Corinne B. Roberts; Michael W. Smith (and upon appointment to redesignate him Vice Chair); Jordin Sparks; Wendy M. Spencer; Roxanne Spillett; Hope Taft; Daniel C. Wuerffel; and Mark G. Yudof.

August 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council, to discuss the situation in Georgia. Then, in Room 231 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Secretary of War Suite.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Sameer Mishra.

August 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing, in which he was updated on the situation in Georgia. He then had separate telephone conversations with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania and President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine to discuss the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Langley, VA, where he participated in separate briefings on the war on terror and the situation in Georgia.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Central Intelligence Agency employees. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in New Mexico and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on July 26 and continuing.

August 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Toomas Ilves of Estonia to discuss the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to appoint the follow individuals as U.S. Commissioners on the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean: Rick Gaffney; William H. Gibbsons-Fly; Paul M. Krampe; Jane C. Luxton; and Peter Young.

The President announced his intention to designate Santanu "Sandy" K. Baruah as Acting Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, a tornado, and flooding on July 18.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino, National Security Council Senior Director for East Asian Affairs Dennis C. Wilder, and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey

Released August 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire

Released August 12

Transcript of remarks by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the situation in Georgia

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2245, H.R. 4210, H.R. 4918, H.R. 5477, H.R. 5483, H.R. 5631, H.R. 6061, H.R. 6085, H.R. 6150, H.R. 6340, S. 3294, and S. 3295

Released August 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released August 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4040, H.R. 4137, and H.R. 6432

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Mexico

Released August 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Vermont

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 4 *

S. 3370 / Public Law 110–301
Libyan Claims Resolution Act

Approved August 12

H.R. 2245 / Public Law 110–302
To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic

H.R. 4210 / Public Law 110–303
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the "Dock M. Brown Post Office Building"

H.R. 4918 / Public Law 110–304
To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the "Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"

H.R. 5477 / Public Law 110–305
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the "Chi Mui Post Office Building"

H.R. 5483 / Public Law 110–306
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the "Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building"

H.R. 5631 / Public Law 110–307
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building"

H.R. 6061 / Public Law 110–308
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the "Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building"

H.R. 6085 / Public Law 110–309
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the "Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building"

H.R. 6150 / Public Law 110–310
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "John P. Gallagher Post Office Building"

H.R. 6340 / Public Law 110–311
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the "Charles L. Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse"

* This public law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

S. 3294 / Public Law 110–312
United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2008

S. 3295 / Public Law 110–313
To amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes

Approved August 14

H.R. 4040 / Public Law 110–314
Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008

H.R. 4137 / Public Law 110–315
Higher Education Opportunity Act

H.R. 6432 / Public Law 110–316
To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes

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